



**Media Contact:**  
Scottie Campbell  
Scottie.Campbell@ocfl.net  
407.836.6751

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**History Center Looks Ahead to *Animationland*, Opening in January 2026**

*Interactive exhibition explores creativity, storytelling, and Central Florida’s animation legacy*

ORLANDO, Fla. — Dec. 9, 2025 — This January, the Orange County Regional History Center will kick off the new year with *Animationland*, a lively and creative special exhibition that invites visitors of all ages to explore how animated stories come to life.

At the exhibition, visitors to the museum will step into a colorful, whimsical environment where Tracey the pencil dog and a cast of friendly characters lead them through activities in sketching, sound, storyboarding, and stop-motion filmmaking. The exhibition highlights the playful partnership of imagination, drawing, science, and storytelling at the heart of animation.

In addition to nationally touring components of the exhibition developed by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the History Center will debut a special section celebrating a remarkable chapter in Central Florida’s animation history. Titled *Drawing Magic: Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida*, this portion of *Animationland* will explore how the Orlando-based studio contributed to iconic films such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Mulan*, and *Lilo & Stitch*, and how its artists helped shape Disney’s animation renaissance. Through studio artifacts, photographs, and artwork visitors will get to know this special creative community that began with Disney in 1989 and continues to flourish today more than two decades after the studio’s closing.

“So many of us grew up with animated films that shaped how we imagine, dream, and tell stories,” said Katie Kelley, curator of exhibitions for the History Center. “*Animationland* gives visitors the chance to explore that creative spark for themselves — and also to discover how a part of that story was made right here in Central Florida. It’s a wonderful reminder of how creativity connects us.”

*Animationland* will be on view at the History Center from January 17 through May 3, 2026.

**The Orange County Regional History Center**, housed in a historic courthouse at 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando, features four floors of permanent and special exhibitions. The museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Community & Family Services Department under Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, visit [TheHistoryCenter.org](http://TheHistoryCenter.org).